



Kingdom of the Netherlands

## Call for Papers

# 2<sup>nd</sup> National Conference on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) at Workplace

Conference Date: September 17, 2019

Abstract Submission Deadline: August 20, 2019

Venue: Nabab Nawab Ali Choudhury Senate Building, University of Dhaka, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh

Organized by: Department of Population Sciences, University of Dhaka, and SNV Netherlands Development Organisation

**Introduction:** Welcome back to the '2nd National Conference on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) at Workplace' slated on September 17, 2019, at the University of Dhaka. The first SRHR Conference in 2018 attracted a wide diversity of stakeholders from both academia and industry. This led to a vigorous exchange of ideas and discussion involving SRHR issues crucial to a large number of people working in the Apparels sector in Bangladesh. Following this success, Department of Population Sciences of the University of Dhaka has partnered with SNV Bangladesh to organize the '2nd National Conference on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) at Workplace' to bring together academicians, activists, researchers, private sector, NGOs and development agencies to discuss problems and solutions impacting the lives of individuals, including women and their ability to exercise and access SRHR at workplace, focusing on the ready-made garments industries in Bangladesh.

SNV Bangladesh is implementing the Working with Women-II project which aims to improve the health and wellbeing of garment workers in Bangladesh through Inclusive Business practices. This project is funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and builds on the success of a three-year pilot project (Working with Women-I). The project supports better implementation of workplace policies on SRHR and health and takes initiatives to ensure the right mechanisms are in place for its implementation.

**About the Conference:** In Bangladesh, the lack of fulfilment, protection and promotion of healthcare and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) is a significant factor that undermines human development and is particularly evident through health, social, political and other development indicators. The issue of SRHR at the workplace is too often sidelined from key policy debates though the quality of access to SRHR has a significant impact on the productivity and general health and well-being of workers, especially in the low-income settings and the profit-driven market dynamics. In these contexts, the booming garment industry in Bangladesh has become a critical location for looking behind the numbers and assess the extent to which the SRHR needs are addressed and recognized. The Ready-Made

Garment (RMG) industry is the mainstay of the Bangladesh economy, accounting for 81% of the country's total export. Bangladesh is the world's second-largest garment producer with more than 4,700 factories, employing above 4 million workers, of which 65% are women. Most RMG workers are migrants from rural areas, who face multiple barriers to receiving adequate healthcare, and services related to SRHR. The quickly changing workplace trends in recent years have influenced SRHR discourse, access to rights, funding, services and lived experiences. The '2<sup>nd</sup> National Conference on Sexual Reproductive Health & Rights (SRHR) at Workplace' will highlight different forms of interventions, explore interactions, trace the pathways for change, and look at the short, intermediate and long-term solutions which address the sexual and reproductive health needs and rights at workplace.

### Conference Sub-Themes

- **Rights-based Approach to SRHR:** Key importance and value creation in RMG through embedding sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in factories and the need for positive marketing.
- **Better Information and Greater Freedom of Choice for SRHR:** Proper sexuality education and nutrition support at workplace. Breaking the taboo around SRHR and greater respect for the sexual and reproductive rights of young people who are currently denied.
- **Engaging Men:** Male participation/contribution in promoting SRHR at workplace.
- **Family Planning:** Making family planning services and products accessible and affordable for garment workers: challenges and opportunities
- **Maternal and Child Health Care at Workplace:** (a) Better sexual and reproductive health care during pregnancy and childbirth. (b) Looking at the ground realities: scenario of institutional delivery among low-income urban population in Dhaka and its suburbs.
- **SRHR Laws and Policy Implementation at Workplace:** Implementation of the laws and policies to Fulfil the SRHR needs of RMG workers.
- **Investing in Workers' Health Contributes to Healthy Industry:** Efficient investment in workers' health will improve productivity and sustainability of the factory.
- **HIV/AIDS and STI/RTI:** (a) Assessing the threats to society, productivity & business in Bangladesh's booming garment community (b) Awareness building and syndromic approach to prevent it.
- **Gender Based Violence:** (a) socio-economic impact of gender-based violence at the workplace (b) initiatives for reducing gender-based violence and related Government directives.
- **Mental Health and SRHR:** Strengthening linkages between SRHR and mental health at workplace

## Abstract Submission

Please submit abstracts of not more than 450 words along with a short biography of 200 words. Abstracts should be written in English and in Times New Roman, in MS Word doc/docx format. We also encourage submissions from young researchers involved in the relevant fields.

## Mode of Presentation

Abstracts can be presented both as oral and poster. However, the decision regarding the status of the submitted abstract whether it will be presented as oral or poster will be given by the scientific committee based on the quality of the abstract.

**Selected Abstracts for Oral and Posters will be notified by August 25, 2019.**

All information regarding the conference is accessible at:

<http://www.dpsdu.edu.bd/index.php/en/>

E-mail for Abstract Submission: [srhr2019@du.ac.bd](mailto:srhr2019@du.ac.bd)

## Important Dates

Deadline for Submission of Abstract: August 20, 2019

Notification of Abstract Acceptance: August 25, 2019

Deadline for Submission of Final Presentation: September 05, 2019

Early Bird Registration Deadline: August 30, 2019

Conference Date: September 17, 2019

## Contact

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## Abstract Structure

The conference will offer two options for abstract submission:

### Option 1

This option is suited for research conducted in all disciplines related to conference thematic areas. Abstracts submitted under the first option should contain concise statements of:

- **Background:** indicate the purpose and objective of the research, the hypothesis that was tested or a description of the problem being analysed or evaluated.
- **Methods:** describe the study period/setting/location, study design, study population, data collection and methods of analysis used.
- **Results:** present as clearly and in as much detail as possible the findings / outcomes of the study. Please summarize any specific results.
- **Conclusions:** explain the significance of your findings/outcomes of the study and future implications of the results.

### Option 2

This option is suited for lessons learned through programme, project or policy implementation or management. Abstracts submitted under the second option should contain concise statements of:

- **Background:** summarize the purpose, scope and objectives, of the programme, project or policy;
- **Description:** describe the programme, project or policy period/setting/location, the structure, key population (if applicable), activities and interventions undertaken in support of the programme, project or policy;
- **Lessons learned:** present as clearly and in as much detail as possible the findings/outcomes of the programme, project or policy; include an analysis or evaluation of lessons learned and best practices. Please summarize any specific results that support your lessons learned and best practices;
- **Conclusions/Next steps:** explain the significance of your findings/outcomes of the programme, project or policy for SRHR and future implications of the results.

### Please read the following guidelines carefully before submitting your abstract:

- Abstracts can only be submitted through the following email address: [srhr2019@du.ac.bd](mailto:srhr2019@du.ac.bd)
- All abstracts must be written in English.
- It is the author's responsibility to submit a correct abstract. Any errors in spelling, grammar or scientific fact in the abstract text will be reproduced as typed by the author. Abstract titles will be subject to a spell check if the abstract is selected for presentation.
- The author should select a thematic area for her/his abstract.
- An author can submit no more than two abstracts.
- No abstract will be accepted after mid-night of 19 August 2018.

## **Sample Abstract Format**

Title:

Author's Name and Affiliation:

Thematic Area:

### **Option 1**

**Background:**

**Methods:**

**Results:**

**Conclusions:**

### **Or Option 2**

**Background:**

**Description:**

**Lessons learned:**

**Conclusions/Next steps:**